

Suncatcher Collage

The process of exploring, experimenting and discovering “what can stick together,” or collaging, will delight toddlers and preschoolers. Tearing and assembling things together gives young children a pleasurable sensory activity. By sorting, choosing and sticking beautiful, pre-cut collage materials, young children are refining the small muscle control in their hands and fingers.

In The Wonder Cabinet:

Today, *The Wonder Cabinet* is providing varied collaging materials that reinforce shape, texture, and color awareness. The use of clear contact paper as a base for their collage encourages children to experiment with how light effects their creation, which can be hung in a window or near another light source at home.

We want the children to be stimulated but not overwhelmed, so providing limited amounts of materials in collage containers helps achieve this goal. As the children become more experienced with the materials provided at the art tables, they are invited to increase their choices of materials by collecting additional treasures from the art baskets.

Please note: it is important to consider that scissors are not important at this beginning stage of art expression.

At Home:

Later, at home, we invite you to find a place to keep some containers of pre-cut or torn collaging materials. We find that a child-size shoebox with dividers works well! Remember, a small amount of collaging materials will work best! In addition to sticky contact paper, you can try other mediums as a base for suncatchers, such as strips of clear packing tape. You can also try squeezing white glue onto wax paper and pressing collage items into the glue. Allow the glue to dry until it is transparent and hard, then peel it from the wax paper and then hang it in the window.

Suggested Collage Materials:

- Fabric scraps, yarn, string
- Natural items like leaves, flowers, twigs
- Magazine pictures
- Cellophane, metallic confetti
- Tissue paper